

Application No.: 10/051,715
Art Unit: 3711; Docket No.: B01-64
Reply to Final Office Action of April 1, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, 19-21, 23, 26, and 28-30 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25, which the Examiner indicated in the Final Office Action would be allowable if re-written in this manner. Claims 13, 19, and 20 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 8 and 29 have been re-written in independent format – the Examiner indicated in the Final Office Action these claims would be allowable if re-written in this manner. Claims 18, 25, 31, and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice to Applicants right to file one or more Divisional or Continuation applications to unclaimed subject matter. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

I. Objection To The Specification

The Specification was objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) and M.P.E.P. § 608.01(o) for allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for claimed subject matter, in particular claim 13. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to the Specification at page 3, lines 4-6, where it states "[a]t least one of the center, core layer, or inner and outer cover layers includes polybutadiene rubber composition comprising between about 2.2 parts and about 5 parts of a halogenated organosulfur compound."

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Specification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) and M.P.E.P. § 608.01(o) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 13-16, 18-20, 21, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 13, 19, and 20 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 18, 31, and 32 have been cancelled.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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III. Rejection Over Melvin In View Binette *et al.*

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-12, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Hayashi in view of Melvin. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25, which the Examiner indicated in the Final Office Action would be allowable if re-written in this manner.

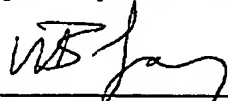
For at least this reason, claim 1 of the present invention is believed to be in condition for allowance. By virtue of their dependency from the independent claim 1, the remaining dependent claims are also believed to in similar condition for allowance. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is, therefore, believed to have been overcome and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

CONCLUSION

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicants' attorney would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the attorney at the number below.

No fee is believed to be due with this submission. If any other fees are required fees, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,



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